

Nature of the Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15.35-49 ctw: 1 John3.1-3

As we have walked thru this letter, Paul has laid out the evidences for Jesus' reality, and the surety of His return. Since Jesus is the proof of life after death, it brings up many questions about burial and resurrection. For example, should we cremate? If so, how will we be raised back to life if our ashes are scattered to the four winds? Yet such a question reveals a misunderstanding of the nature of the resurrection. And this morning, Paul answers this challenge for us. What is the nature? He gives us the analogy of the seed. In other words, life is like a seed. There are two aspects to this:

1. Earthly Angle – Before Germination

- a. Plain looking, full of potential. Example - Grapefruit
- b. Each seed is set to germinate a specific plant. Avocado seeds do not yield grapefruits.
- c. Seed needs to die. Someday, take a seed, lay it on bed of rich soil, sprinkle just enough to watch it – the shedding of its hull, the green shoot coming up.
- d. Earthly Angle we should look at death as a time of planting. For His return shall bring the time of harvest.
- e. Warning – directly grapefruits don't come from avocado seeds – indirectly we sow godlessness, we reap godlessness for eternity. We sow righteousness, we shall reap righteousness, being with God for eternity.

2. Heavenly Angle – After Germination

- a. The seed germinates. We are glorified.
- b. Paul then switches from earthly angle to the heavenly. Ever stop and just watch the sky, such as the Wolf moon on Friday? Screensaver is from Hubble Telescope, different heavenly bodies, nebulas, novas, galaxies.
- c. Yet as different, awesome that is, how much more so will be given with our new bodies; where we spend eternity praising God?
- d. Consider the resurrected body of Christ: He was recognizable, yet he wasn't the same. He passed through walls and locked doors, materialized and disappeared in plain sight, and yet cooked and ate food, and had his disciples touch him.

Bring It Home: What does this mean for us? Paul wrote this to encourage the believers, to comfort. Some thought that if one is cremated, then there would be no afterlife. Others, if buried at sea, consumed by fish, fish consumed by a person... you get the idea.

Just as in Adam, we were given a body to use here, so in Christ, we shall receive a glorified body. As people consider God, they will blame Him for defects and tragedies. Yet we can use these words to comfort them, to help them see beyond the now and see the future, to see a loving God waiting for them. Yet God choose us to carry this message. Let this passage bring us comfort.